

In custody of
Federal Marshall
April 22, 1975

Hon. Edward Levi
The Attorney General Of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

the purpose of this

This letter ~~has two purposes:~~ *is*

1. ~~A summary of~~ *may be* actions by officials in your department which I believe ~~are~~ obstructing justice in several important cases, and *violating my civil rights*
2. *to* request that you appoint a member of your staff to investigate ~~these actions~~ *whether* ~~enforcement and my civil rights have been~~ ~~law enforcement has been hampered and my~~ ~~civil rights violated by~~

You will find enclosed a copy of a letter written by me ~~xxxxxxx~~ to Mr Guy Goodwin of the Criminal Division. This letter outlines the positive ~~aspects of my relationship~~ *contributing. I have made* with his office. ~~xxxxxx~~ *in checking can hardly d.o. a x xxviii*

In the following paragraphs I ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ am reluctantly forced to present the bad news--by summarizing events which I think have injured the interests of the Justice Department and myself.

1. In passing let me say that I believe that files, tapes, and depositions by members of the Mitchell administration would show that from 1968 to 1973 I was subject to illegal surveillance, and over-enthusiastic harassment by various Law Enforcement agencies. My reactions to this harassment were admittedly a bit too Irish. I have certainly paid for my mistaken participation in the polarization of that period and have no desire to resuscitate the past adversary excesses.
2. Since January 1971 (my public break with violent-militancy in Algeria) I have manifested both in word and deed my disillusionment with partisan extremism and have advocated intelligent

reconciliation. Since May 1974 I have been totally involved in cooperating with the government on three important projects:

- a) To help counter drug abuse and drug traffic
- b) To help prevent terrorism and illegal political extremism
- c) ^{exposure,} the conviction and disbarment of several "two-ply" lawyers who,
 - 1. encourage, sponsor, and participate in drug traffic and terrorism
 - 2. profit, both in money and publicity, by defending criminals whose crimes they have encouraged,
 - 3. And in so doing suborn perjury, ~~and~~ intensify social division and *encourage* criminal attitudes.

My letter to Mr Goodwin summarizes what I have done to further these three goals.

I shall now summarize the consistent efforts on the part of Justice Department officials to block progress towards these three goals.

I would welcome confirmation or disproof of my hypothesis that there are apparently two opinions about my participation in these three collaborative projects.

1. Most of the Law Enforcement officials who have worked directly with me and Joanna Leary seem to be eager to pursue our stated objectives and have confidence in my ability and commitment.

2. Some members of the Justice Department ^{whom I have never met} seem to be skeptical and have ~~either~~ actively or passively opposed these projects and incidentally put my life in some danger.

(I am aware of the fact that I have access to a small percentage of the facts involved in these cases--S.L.A., Weather Underground, allied bombing groups--and there may be very good reasons for the delay and ~~apparant~~ confusion. If investigation by your office concludes that my cooperation is not wanted

on rational grounds then I shall respect this decision and find other governmental officials who might be responsive to my cooperation.

3. I cite the following ~~examples of~~ acts of slander and deliberate obstruction which have hampered our cooperation, ~~threatened my life, and tend to~~ threatened my life, and tend to discourage ~~reconciliation and~~ ^{the} cooperation of others ^{who seek reconciliation} with the Justice Department.

a) Before May 27 1974 I was assured by a federal agent that when my cooperation began I would be housed under circumstance which would be more safe and comfortable than the medium security situation in which I was then held. The facts are that since May 27 I have been kept in punishment cells "holes" and ~~in~~ almost completely cut-off from the familial and social contacts which the "main-line" prisoner is allowed. My complaint here is not personal~~ly~~; ~~investigation will confirm that I am an unusually strong, resilient, good-natured person with considerable inner resources. However, the effect of this bizarre treatment has had a very negative effect on my family members and friends. And in the more important social perspective I could not at this moment encourage others to seek reconciliation and political reunion through the auspices of Justice Department officials who ante-date your administration.~~ investigation will confirm that I am an unusually strong, resilient, good-natured person with considerable inner resources. However, the effect of this bizarre treatment has had a very negative effect on my family members and friends. And in the more important social perspective I could ^{honestly} not at this moment encourage others to seek reconciliation and political reunion through the auspices of Justice Department officials who ante-date your administration.

b) I was assured by federal officials that a Grand Jury ~~was to be held in August 1974. These assurances/"next month" have continued since then.~~ ~~was to be held in August 1974.~~ (which by ~~regard~~ Catch 22 regulation is necessary for Safe House protection) would be held in August 1974. ^{of next} These assurances/"next month" have continued since then.

3) Joanna Leary, ~~who~~ was promised that she would be protected from reprisal and be able to see me in Safe House conditions at least equal to those of a maximum security ^{prison}. In spite of the fact that she has risked her life in dozens of face-to-face contacts with allegedly dangerous criminals--Chula, Marin County extortionists, Kennedy, Rhine, English-drug manufacturers and has participated in several other risky missions (San Francisco archives, Hiler case, Vienna tape interview with Rhine) ^{potentially} she has been offered no protection, ~~and~~ forced to ~~incur~~ incur large expenses, ~~and has been forced to~~ ^{obliged to}

friendly but stern

abandon all of her social contacts both in this country and Europe, and has been able to see me during the period of eleven months only in the immediate presence of two marshalls.

(now retired) 4. In July 1974 Joanna Leary and I were warned by a federal official that if we failed to cooperate I would be placed on the main-line of a prison with the "jacket of a snitch."

5. Shortly thereafter a federal agent (probably the same ~~xx~~ mentioned in item 4) leaked to Newsweek the information that I was cooperating with the government and that my life was in danger!

6. At the same time I was transferred to Sandstone Federal Prison under the ^{vulnerable} cover name of Robert Thrush (!). ~~Wxxxxx~~ My request to the Warden to be put on the mainline under my own name was denied and I was ~~placed~~ thereupon placed in the "hole" for five weeks. (I have nothing but sympathetic praise for the Warden and the Bureau of Prisons who have consistently done the best they could under the bizarre circumstances)

7. During August 1974 a Washington-based ~~Real~~ Justice Department official released a story printed in the New York Times which maliciously and unnecessarily threatened my life, and produced a slanderous account of my legal status, which impugned my credibility, and ~~hampered~~ ^{spectacular} obstructed progress on the three projects at stake. Included in this ~~press~~ ^{spectacular} release were the following untruths:

- 1) That I was informing on narcotic traffickers.
- 2) That I had been convicted of smuggling narcotics
- 3) That I had been charged with possession of a large amount of hashish.
- 4) that my life was ~~inxxxxxxx~~ endangered by drug dealers. Etc.

It is interesting to note that these same slanders were subsequently picked up by the grateful leftist-activists involved--

- 5) That truck-loads of my archives ~~was~~ ^{were} providing information on drug traffickers.

since they tended to discourage other witnesses from cooperating and to impugn the character of the key witness in ~~the~~ cases against Kennedy, Rhine, Standard.

8. In August another Federal official released to the San Francisco Examiner a story repeating the same slanders and

in explicitly revealed that I had identified a Weather courier who was currently purchasing paper for the Weather publications. ~~While~~ Both of these Justice Department releases are ^{not only} actionably slanderous ~~but in addition are~~ incitements to violence and ^{re}intimidating ~~to~~ prospective witnesses, but also served ^{and} to alert the terrorist of the nature of the case against them--e.g. the archives.

9. The effect of these unfortunate and gratuitous ventures into public relations was clearly seen in the case of William Bellinger who initially refused to cooperate with F.B.I. interviewers because of his obvious fear of reprisal. It required a complicated meeting between me and Bellinger to undo this damage.

10. In addition to these ~~new~~ avoidable blocks to our project we have been plagued by the familiar bureaucratic inefficiencies ~~which~~ created by the policy of having ^{friendly} agents with no real understanding of the case scaring off/witnesses and in one case falling into traps set by hostile witnesses. I am sure you are by now well aware of the vexing problems caused by the centralization of authority/~~zzzzzz~~ in your domain.

The ~~above~~ examples listed above are just a fraction of the consistent bungling that has characterized this case. (Incidentally I had been assured on many occasions that Mr Goodwin or Mr Merkle would come out to interview me. I would certainly recommend to you and to other persons seeking reconciliation with the government, that ^{officials} persons responsible for decisions on such cases be available for direct contact to avoid the Kafkaesque scenarios which, in the end can only obstruct justice and social ^{trust} harmony.)

If this case concerned only my own legal destiny I might resign myself to bureaucratic inertia and seek my own release ~~and~~ by appealing the many ambiguities in my case. We are, however, dealing with the most ^{unsettling} active criminal situation in the country:

1. Weather Underground bombings have dramatically increased in the last ten months.
2. As I predicted, many young people are being encouraged to emulate the irrational terrorists.
3. Michael Kennedy has continued to operate as the most

outspoken sponsor of violent terrorism. (See the April 25 issue of Newsweek in which his comments are ~~directly~~ clearly directed to our case against him!)

Under these circumstances I submit to you that the apparent obstruction, both passive and active, by ~~members of your~~ members of your department, hold-overs, one cannot fail to note, of the Mitchell regime, merit an investigation.

My message has been and will continue to be: The War Is Over. We must make sure that the last die-hard Hiroo Onodes^{*}, whether ^{of the} left or right, ^{the} must hear this reconciling signal or be exposed¹ to public scrutiny as unrepentant "Old Warriors".

For the last ten months I have repeatedly stated that, with the intelligent cooperation of the Justice Department, I can help put Kennedy, Rhine, Standard and other "criminal" lawyers out of the business of encouraging terrorism and can present a public case against political violence which could prevent 1000's of young people from joining the growing ranks of ~~the~~ illegal militants.

Let me repeat my sincere wish not to get involved in an adversary position with the Justice Department. However, if my offers to cooperate are ~~rejected~~ not promptly accepted I shall ~~reluctantly~~ withdraw my cooperation and offer my energies to the Attorney General of the State of California whose deputies are aware of the issues involved and have been patiently waiting for eleven months for Washington to make a decision.

If California cannot pursue these three objectives with my assistance I shall, reluctantly, obtain personal counsel ~~and~~ ^{my} seek an end to ~~the~~ ^{the} curious conditions of incarceration and to my silencing.

In any case my case against drug-abuse, terrorism, and exploitive lawyers will be made public.

My willingness and ability to assist intelligent Law Enforcement officials can be confirmed by contacting:

Arthur Van Court, U.S. Marshall, ~~xxxxxxx~~ Sacramento, CA
Jerry Utz, Asst. Attorney General, State of California